

II. ANALYSIS OF JUVENILE CRIME PROBLEMS

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ANALYSIS OF JUVENILE CRIME PROBLEMS IN VIRGINIA

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ANALYSIS OF JUVENILE CRIME PROBLEMS IN VIRGINIA

PREFACE

This section presents data to illustrate the youth involved in Virginia's juvenile justice system. The population section is unchanged as Virginia continues to use data from the 2000 Census. A new section has been added, *System-Wide Issues* that provides data about the problems of very young offenders and the disproportionate representation of African American children in the system. The section is further divided into parts containing data about juvenile arrests, intake cases, admissions to secure detention facilities, and commitments to juvenile correctional centers. The most recent available information is presented and that is usually to 2003.

Since the change from uniform crime reporting to the Incident-based reporting system, the arrest data have been problematic and they continue to be so. A limited amount of arrest data is provided. Further details are provided in the arrest section.

Information is collected from several sources. Virginia's Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) collects data on juveniles handled by local court service units, juveniles held in secure detention facilities, and juveniles committed to juvenile correctional centers. The U.S. Bureau of the Census provides population data projections. All population data are from the 2000 census. Arrest data are from the Virginia State Police.

I: VIRGINIA'S JUVENILE POPULATION

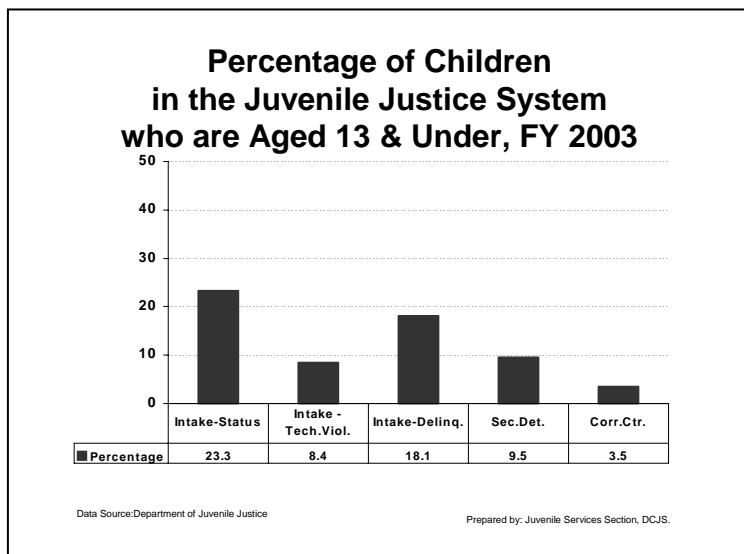
No change. The 2000 Census data continue to be used for Virginia's juvenile population.

II: SYSTEM-WIDE ISSUES

The following two sections provide information about very young offenders and about the disproportionate representation of minority children, mainly African American children, in the juvenile justice system. Information is provided about their numbers and percentages and about their offenses. All offense information is for the most serious offense for which the child is brought to intake, admitted to secure detention, or committed to a juvenile correctional facility. Both young juvenile offenders and disproportionate minority representation are priority areas for grant funding in Virginia.

YOUNG JUVENILE OFFENDERS

Over the past several years, Virginia's Title II grant program has focused on young juvenile offenders, children aged 13 and under who have had contact with the juvenile justice system. The following graph shows the percentage of children aged 13 and under at various stages of the juvenile justice system¹. The three leftmost bars represent 10,600 children aged 13 and under brought to intake in 2003. They are broken down into those whose only offense is a status offense, whose only offense is a technical offense, and whose most serious offense is a delinquent offense.



As the leftmost bar in the chart shows, nearly one-quarter of children brought to intake for status offenses are aged 13 and under. This represents about 2,300 of 10,000 children brought for status offenses.

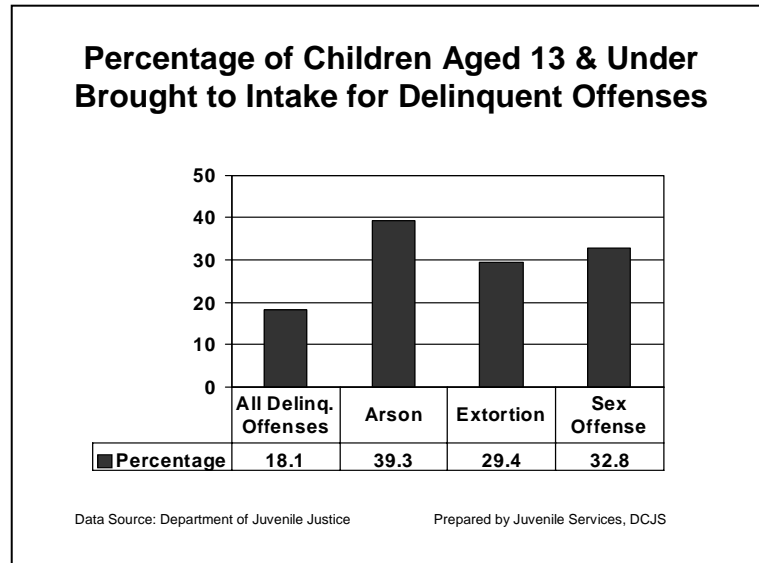
Technical violators are brought to intake usually for contempt of court or probation/parole violations. No new offense has been

committed. Of the 10,256 children brought to intake for technical violations, 804 were aged 13 and under. As the chart shows, this represents 8.4%.

¹ The totals on which the percentages are based are for juveniles aged 7 to 17. Data for persons in the system who are aged 18 and over or age unknown is not included in the totals. For aged 18 and over, this represents 26 intake cases for status offenses, 705 intake cases for technical violations, 739 delinquent intake cases, 77 detention admissions, 42 commitments to correctional centers. For age unknown, this is 198 intake cases for status offenses, 6 intake cases for technical violations, 213 delinquent intake cases, and 25 detention admissions.

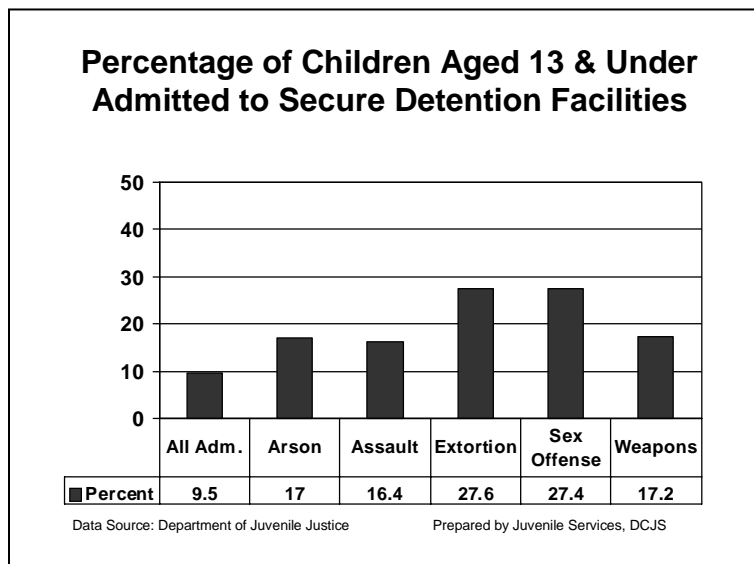
About 7,500 (18.1%) of 41,477 children brought to intake for delinquent offenses are aged 13 and under, shown in the middle bar in the chart above. The next bar shows the 9.5% of admissions to secure detention facilities that were aged 13 and under. This is 1,820 of 19,182 admissions aged 7 to 17. The rightmost bar represents the 40 children aged 13 and under who were committed to juvenile correctional facilities in 2003. This is 3.5% of 1,139 admissions aged 12-17.

Why are these children in the system? The young children brought to intake for status offenses are truants (1,200) or *children in need of services* (800). For delinquent offenses, arson, extortion, and sex offenses are the offenses for which young children are disproportionately represented at intake, as the chart shows.



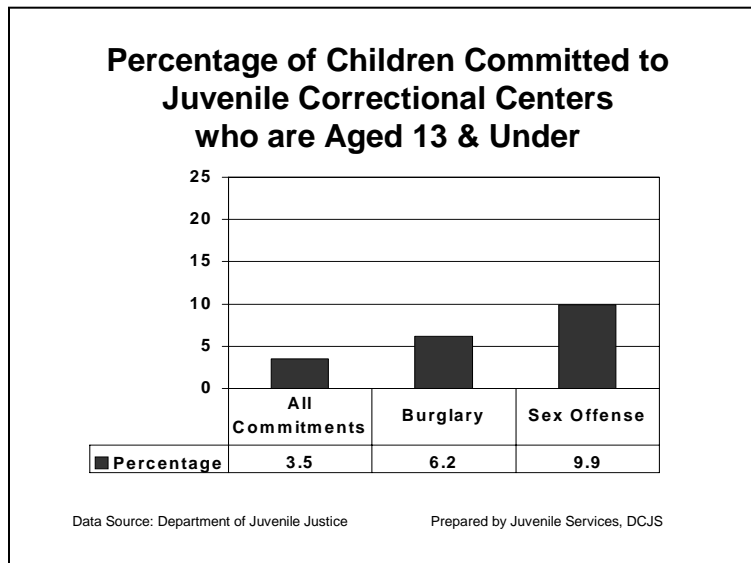
The chart shows the total percentage – 18.1% - of children aged 13 and under brought to intake for delinquent offenses compared to almost 40% of young children brought for arson (262), about 33% (224) of sex offenders and about 30% of extortionists (82). When children aged 14 are included, over half of children brought to intake for arson and sex offenses are aged 14 and under.

The next chart provides the same percentile information for very young children who are overrepresented in certain offenses in secure detention facilities.



The leftmost bar shows that 9.5% of all admissions to secure detention facilities are for children aged 13 and under. However, relative to the overall percentage, there are a disproportionate number of admissions of young children brought for arson (39), assault (533), extortion (24), sex offenses (90), and

weapons offenses (70)

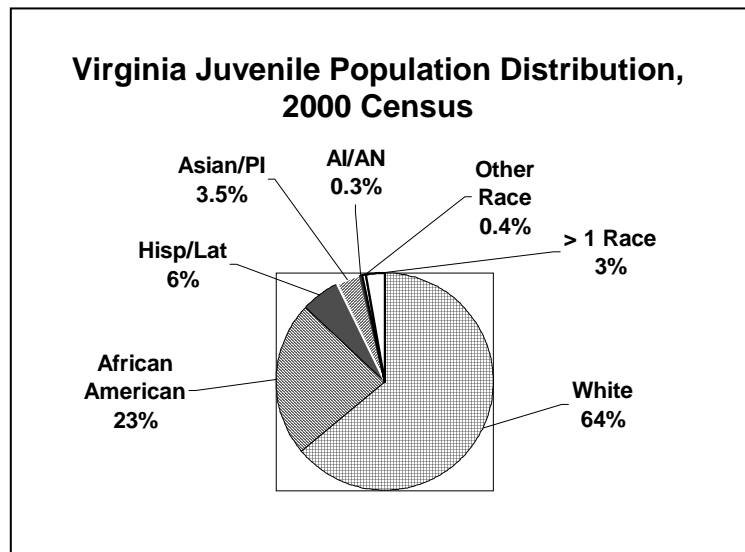


In juvenile correctional centers, 3.5% of all commitments are for children aged 13 and under, as shown in the leftmost bar. In 2003, 1,139 children aged 7 to 17 were committed to correctional centers. Of those, 40 were aged 13 and under. Ten of the juveniles committed for burglary were aged 13 and under and 8 of those committed for sex offenses were aged 13

and under. When children aged 14 are included, 21% of those committed for arson and 32% of those committed for sex offenses are aged 14 and under.

MINORITY OFFENDERS

The data provided below give an overview of how minority children are represented in the system and information about their offenses². More information is provided in the *Plan for Reducing Disproportionate Minority Contact*. That plan provides indices comparing minority and white juveniles for the State and the three localities with the largest



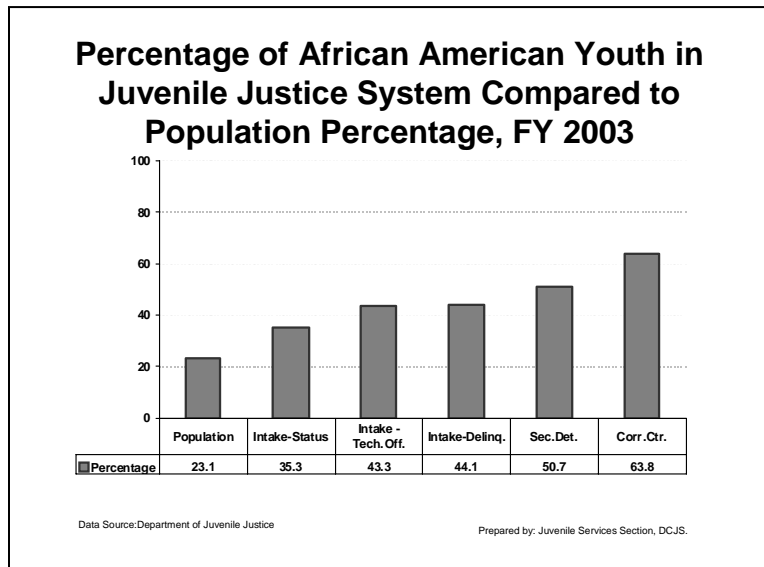
minority juvenile population. It also gives an overview of Virginia's activities to address disproportionate minority contact.

The pie chart shows the racial distribution of Virginia's juvenile population. The juvenile population is mainly white or African American, although, as discussed in

² These data include some individuals who are 18 years or older: 26 intake for status offenses, 705 intake for technical violations, 739 delinquent intake, 77 detention admissions, 42 commitments to correctional centers. They also include some of unknown race: 95 intake cases for status offenses, 31 intake for technical violations, 213 intake delinquent offenses, and 49 detention admissions.

the Three-Year Plan, the Hispanic population has increased substantially since the 1990 census.

The next graph shows the percentages of African American children at various stages in the juvenile justice system.

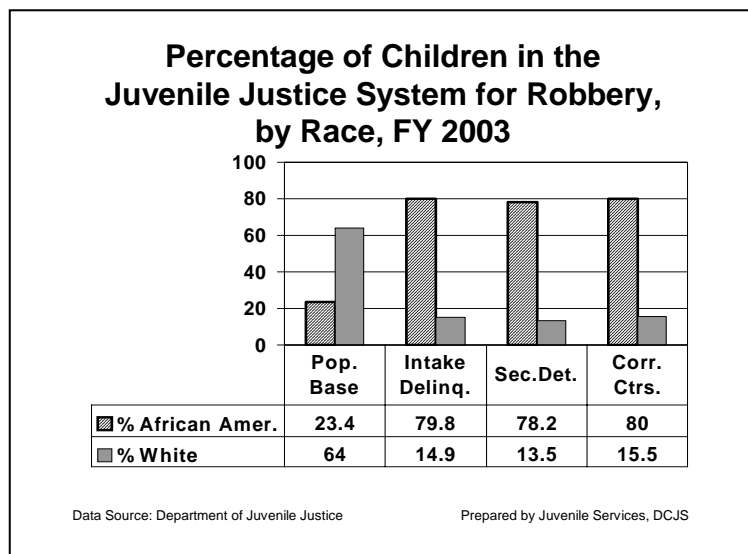


As one moves deeper into the system, there is a steady increase in the percentage of African American children, as the graph depicts. They represent less than one-quarter of the population, but by the correctional center stage, they are two-thirds of commitments.

Like very young offenders, African

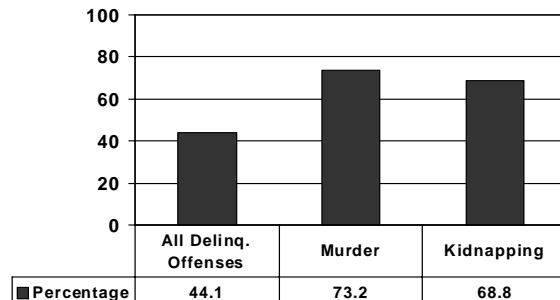
American children are more overrepresented in some offenses than in others. Examination of the data shows that, throughout the system, African American children are overrepresented for charges of robbery compared to white children. Those data are depicted below.

African American children represent about 80% of children brought to intake for robbery (477 of 598), of admissions to secure detention facilities (459 of 587), and of commitments to correctional centers (88 of 110).



The following graph shows the other delinquent offenses for which African American children are disproportionately represented at the intake stage.

Percentage of African American Children Brought to Intake, FY 2003



Data Source: Department of Juvenile Justice

Prepared by Juvenile Services, DCJS

Of the 71 murder cases, African American children were brought to intake for 52 of them. African American children also represented 69% of kidnapping (44 of 64) intake cases.

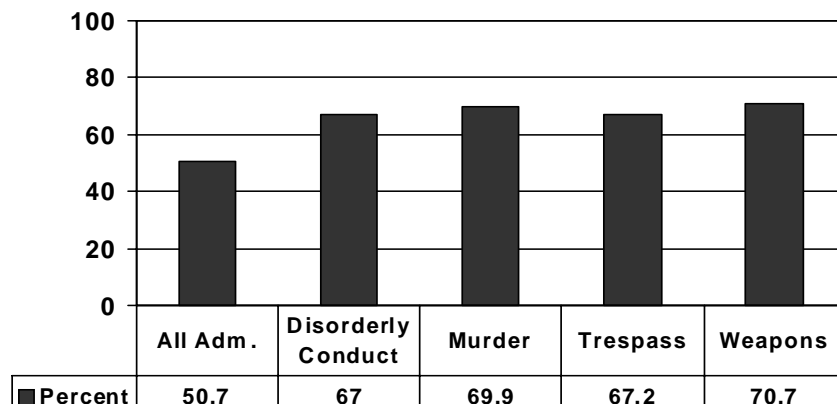
There are some other anomalies. Where the most serious offense is a gang offense, Hispanic children represent more than half of the intake cases (21 of 40). White children are

overrepresented at intake where the most serious charge is alcohol (80.1% white), narcotics (63% white) and obscenity (70% white).

The next chart provides the same percentile information for African American children who are overrepresented in certain offenses in secure detention facilities.

The leftmost bar shows that about half of admissions to secure detention are of African American children. However, they represent 67% of admissions for disorderly conduct (195 of 291), 70% of admissions for murder (51 of 73), 67% of admissions for trespassing (117 of 174), and 71% of admissions for weapons offenses (289 of 409). White children represent about 2/3 of admissions where the most serious offense is arson or an alcohol offense.

Percentage of African American Children Admitted to Secure Detention Facilities

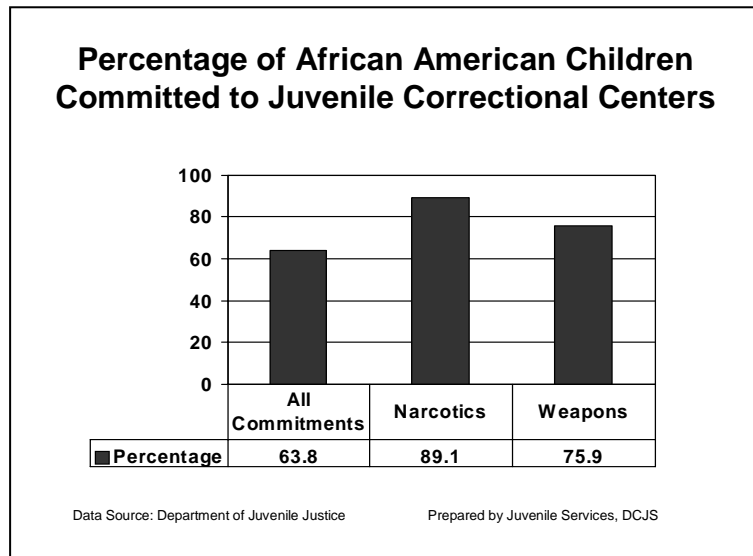


Data Source: Department of Juvenile Justice

Prepared by Juvenile Services, DCJS

In juvenile correctional centers, 64% of commitments are of African American children. In addition to their overrepresentation for robbery offenses shown above, they are overrepresented for narcotics and weapons offenses, as depicted in the chart.

For narcotics offenses, African American children represent 90 of 101 commitments. As with admissions to secure detention facilities, African American juveniles are overrepresented for weapons offenses, representing 22 of 29 commitments.



SUMMARY - SYSTEM-WIDE ISSUES

Young juvenile offenders, children aged 13 and under, are increasingly visible in the juvenile justice system. They have been a priority area for Title II funding since 2002. In 2003, they represented about 10,600 intake cases, about 1,800 admissions to secure detention facilities, and about 160 commitments to juvenile correctional centers. Relative to their overall percentages, they are overrepresented in arson, extortion, sex offense, assault, burglary, and weapons cases.

Compared to white children and other minority children, African American children are overrepresented in the juvenile justice system. That overrepresentation increases as they move deeper into the system. Like young juvenile offenders, African American children are overrepresented more in some offenses than others. They are overrepresented for robbery, murder, kidnapping, disorderly conduct, trespassing, narcotics, and weapons offenses. More information about the racial distribution of children in the system is provided in the *Disproportionate Minority Contact Plan*.

III: ARREST DATA

Arrest data are obtained from the Virginia Department of State Police. Since the change from the uniform crime reporting system to incident-based reporting, the arrest data have been problematic with large amounts of data from individual localities missing or incomplete. In Virginia, 1999 was the first year to use the IBR system. That year, data for a large, but unknown, number of localities, including many large cities, was incomplete or entirely missing. In 2000, localities representing about one-quarter of the Virginia population reported no data or incomplete data. In 2002, that portion has been reduced to about 2%. The result is that trend data are not reliable. Additionally, it is believed that the missing/incomplete estimates are underreported.

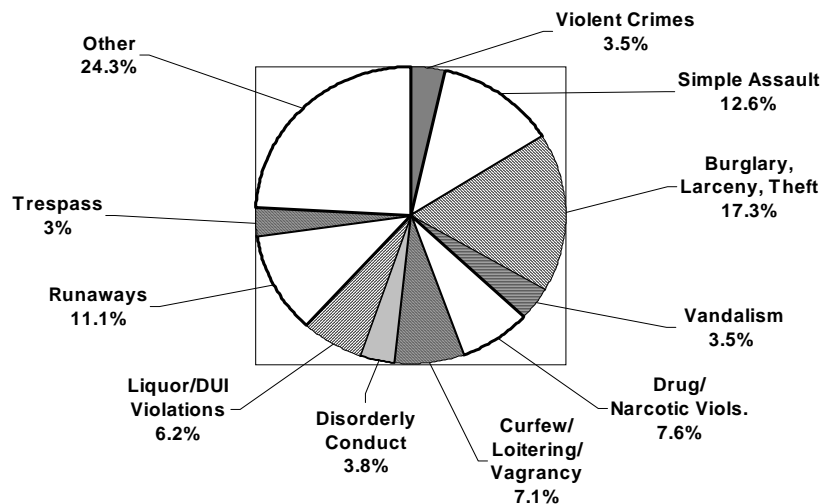
In this section, general information about the distribution of offenses and the age distribution of offenders for calendar year 2002 is reported. It is assumed that the missing data will have the same general characteristics of offense and age distributions as that which has been reported.

OFFENSES

The offense distribution of juvenile arrests is shown in the graph below. It has changed little since the presentation of 2001 data in the Three-Year Plan. As the graph shows, violent crimes represent a small portion of juvenile arrests -- about 4% in 2002.

Burglary/larceny/theft and vandalism represent about 20% of arrests. Arrests for simple assault constitute another 13%. Together runaways, liquor law violations, and curfew/loitering/vagrancy offenses, many of which are status offenses, constitute over 20%.

Offense Distribution of Juvenile Arrests, CY 2003

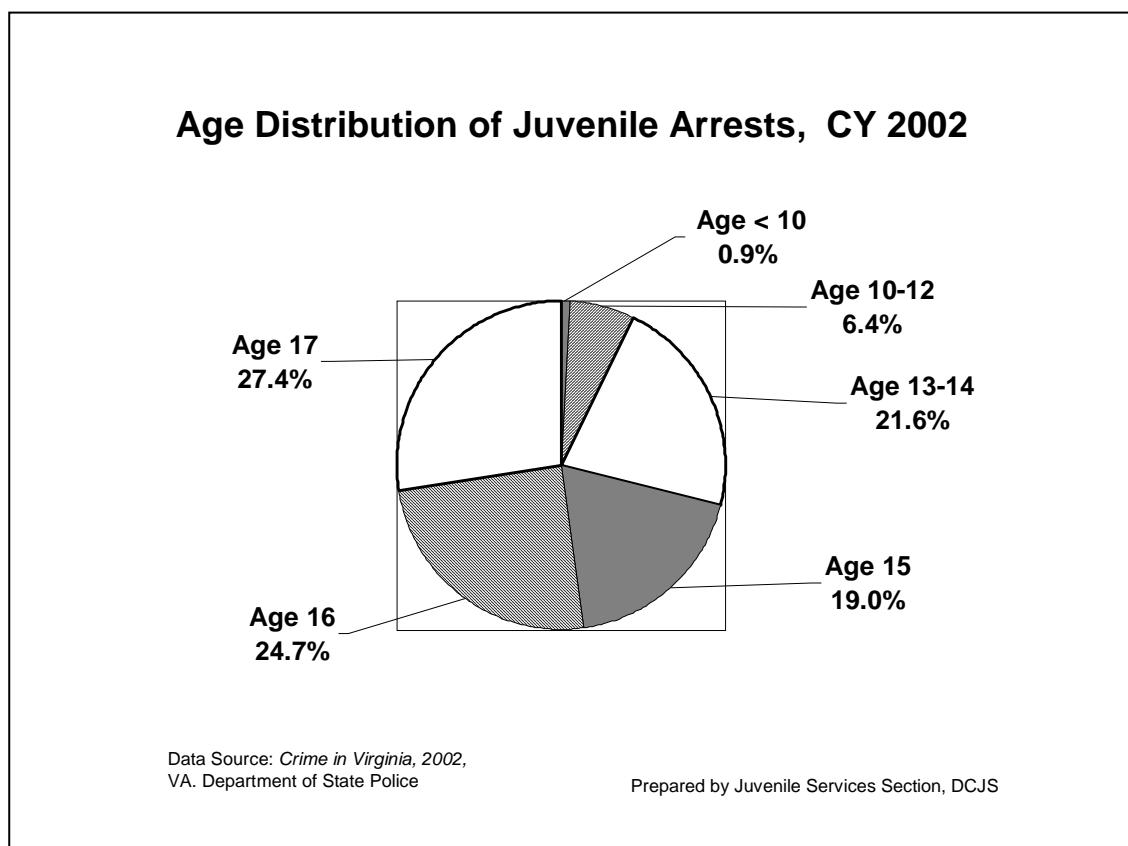


Data Source: *Crime in Virginia, 2002*, VA Dept. of State Police
Violent offenses include murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, forcible sexual offenses, robbery, & aggravated assault

Prepared by Juvenile Services Section , DCJS

AGE DISTRIBUTION

The age distribution of juvenile arrests is shown in the graph below. There is essentially no change since 2001. As the graph shows, about 30% of children arrested are aged 14 and under.



SUMMARY: ARREST DATA

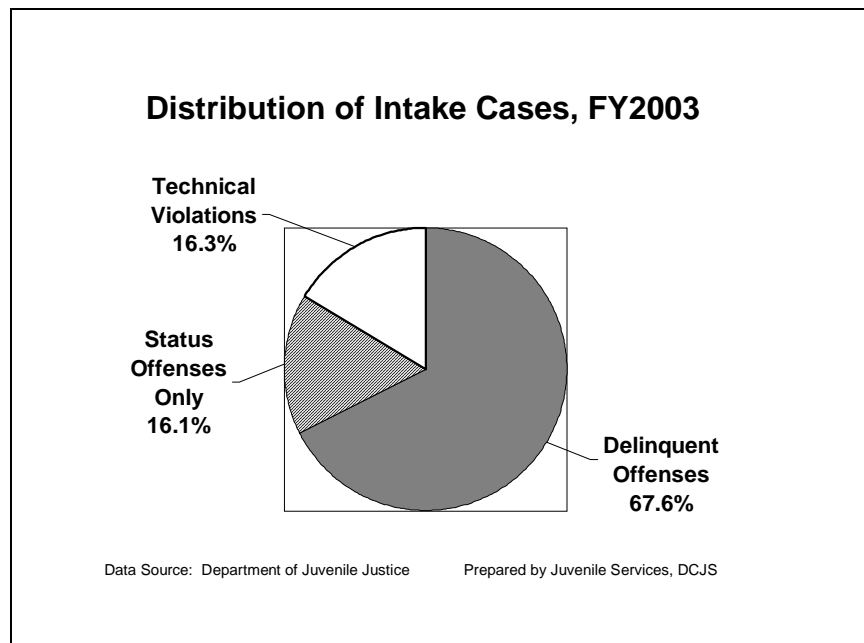
Arrests for violent crimes represented about 3% of juvenile arrests in 1998. That percentage has remained stable. The age distribution is also relatively unchanged since 1998. In 1998, children aged 14 and under represented 30.4% of arrests; in 2002 they represented 28.9%.

IV: INTAKE DATA

Juveniles are brought to the attention of Intake Officers at Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Service Units by police and by parents, victims, and other agencies. The Court Service Units receive, review, and process complaints, determine whether a petition should be filed with the court, establish whether to release or detain youth, and provide services to youth and families. Information on court service unit intake cases is presented in this section.

COURT SERVICE UNIT INTAKE CASES

The information presented in this section concerns juvenile intake cases. In 2003, there were 62,765 cases. They include cases where the most serious offense is a delinquent offense, cases of technical violations, and cases where the only offense is a status offense.



As the graph shows, delinquent cases represent about two-thirds of intake cases (42,399).

The other one-third of cases are status offenses and technical violations. Cases with only status offenses represent 1/6 of intake cases (10,110). Technical violations represent another 1/6 (10,256). These are cases where no new offense has been

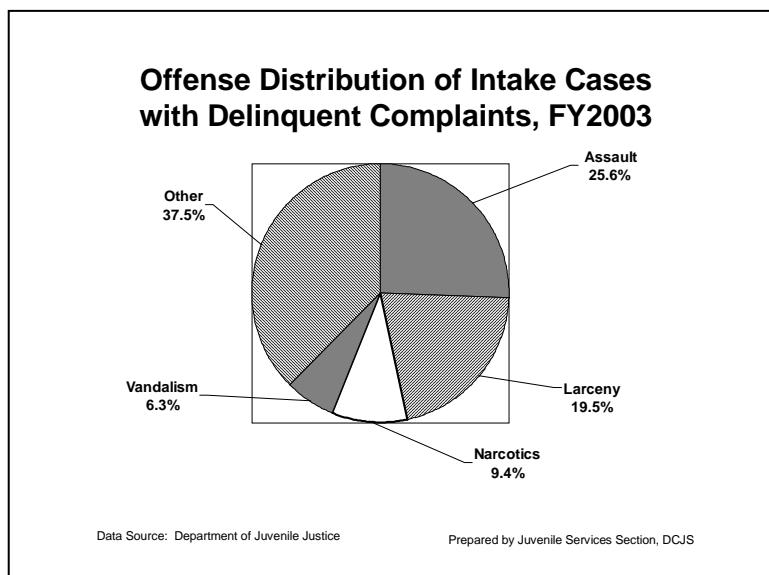
committed and would include probation/parole violations, contempt of court, violations of a court order, and failure to appear in court.

COURT SERVICE UNIT INTAKE - DELINQUENT CASES

Delinquent cases are those for which a child is brought to intake for a complaint that is a felony or a misdemeanor 1-4. These are criminal offenses. They range from minor offenses such as shoplifting to major offenses such as murder and manslaughter. Most are misdemeanor offenses. Of the felony offenses, most are property offenses rather than crimes against persons. Cases classified as delinquent may have other complaints against the child such as status offenses, technical violations, domestic relations, or traffic, but the most serious complaint is for a delinquent offense.

Total data are presented, along with information concerning the offenses committed, percentages of cases petitioned, and some demographic information regarding age, race and gender. Most demographic information is presented in the section, *System-Wide Issues*, above.

Largest Delinquent Offense Categories



In 2003, four offenses accounted for almost 2/3 of the 42,000 delinquent cases. These data do not include cases of technical violations or cases where the only offense is a status offense. The 2002 chart included some technical violations, so direct comparison is not appropriate. However, except for the technical violations, the largest offense categories are unchanged since 2002. They were assault (10,875 cases compared to 10,542 in 2002), larceny (8,994 cases compared to 8,407 in

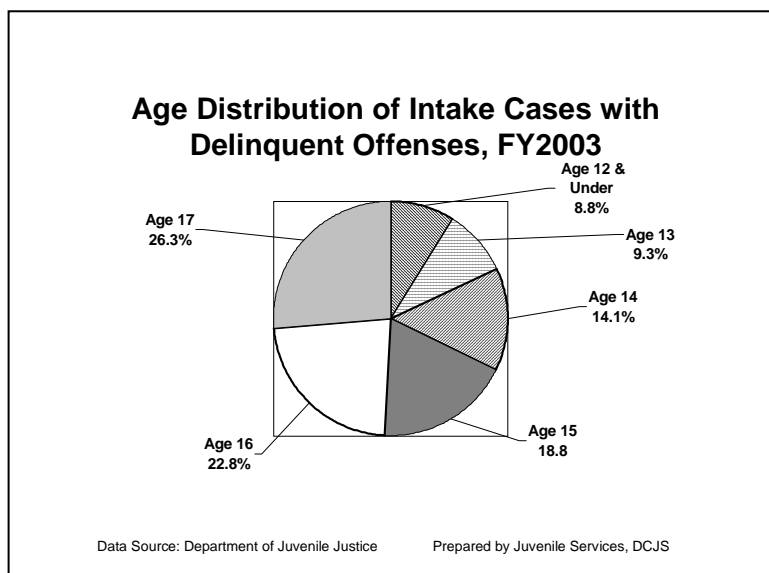
2002), narcotics (3,997 cases compared to 3,956 in 2002), and vandalism (2,665 cases compared to 2,847 in 2002).

Demographics on Cases - Most Serious Offense is a Delinquent Offense

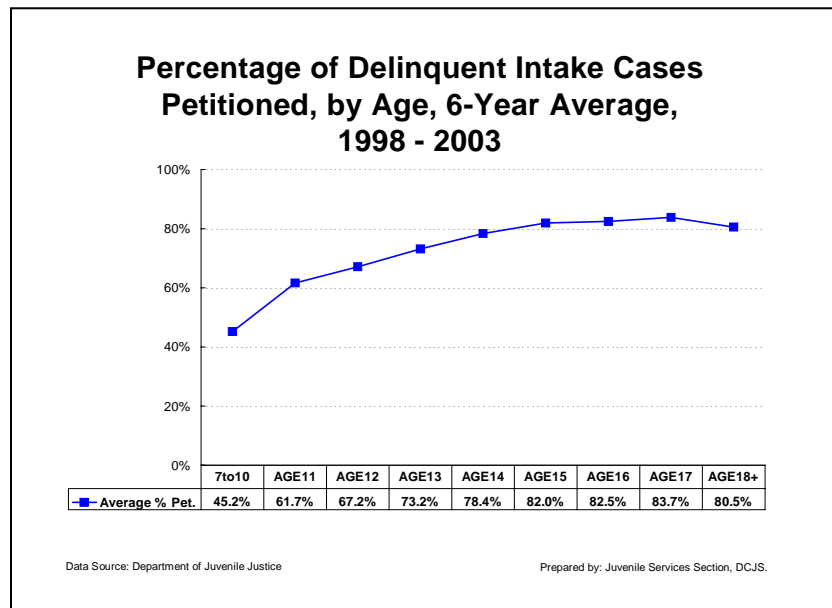
This section contains data about the age, racial composition, and gender of intake cases where the most serious offense is a delinquent offense.

Age

As the chart shows, more than one-quarter of children brought to intake for delinquent offenses are aged 14 and under.



The following chart shows the average percentage of children petitioned to court, by age, over the period 1998 to 2003.



For children younger than age 14, age has an effect on whether they will be petitioned to court.

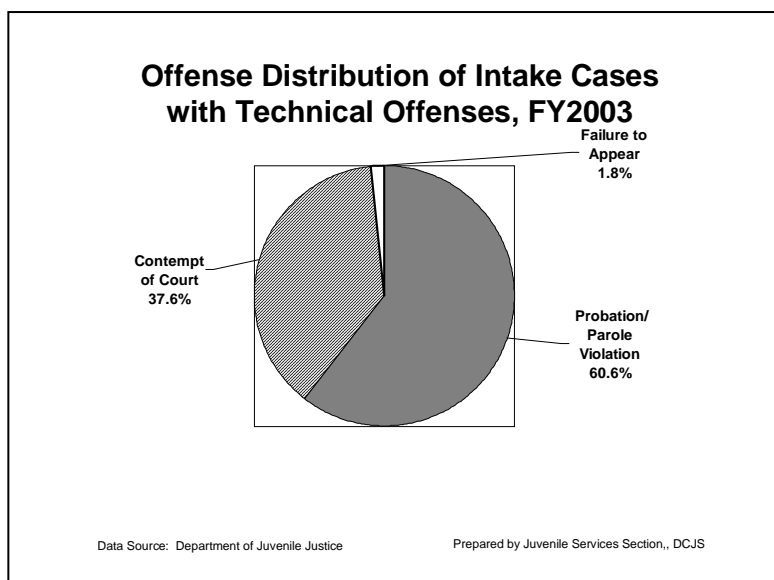
Racial and Gender Composition

As indicated in the Three-Year Plan, the data indicate that, although African American juveniles are disproportionately represented at intake, overrepresentation is not increased at the petitioning stage. This is unchanged over the past six years. For more information about the racial composition of delinquent offenses, see the *System Wide Issues* section above and the *Disproportionate Minority Contact Plan*.

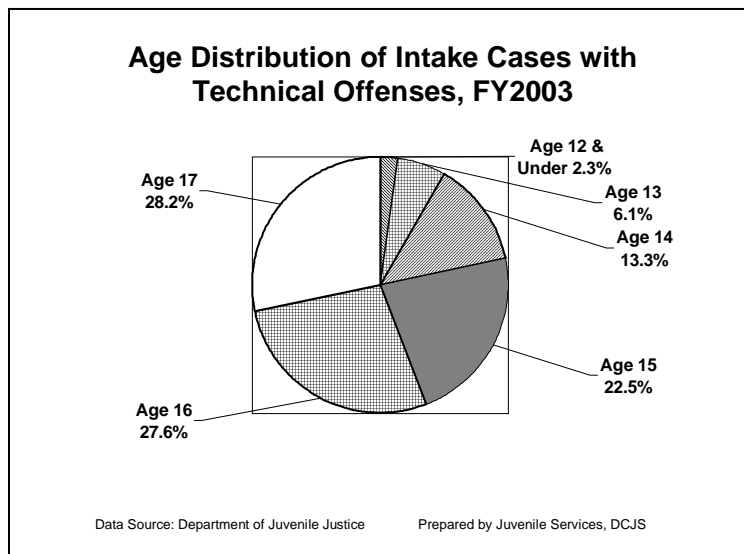
The percentage of intake cases petitioned, by gender, has changed less than 0.5% since 2002.

COURT SERVICE UNIT INTAKE -- TECHNICAL OFFENSES CASES

Approximately 10,000 children were brought to intake for technical offenses in 2003. These are termed technical offenses because the child has not committed a new offense. Most cases were for probation/parole violations (6,219) or contempt of court (3,856), as the pie chart shows.



Demographics on Cases - Most Serious Offense is a Technical Offense



Age

The age distribution of children brought to intake for technical offenses is shown in the pie chart. Almost one-quarter of them are 14 years of age or younger. This is somewhat less than for delinquent offenses, as might be expected. These children have already been to intake at least once.

Racial and Gender Composition

For information about racial composition of technical offenses, see the *System Wide Issues* section above and the *Disproportionate Minority Contact Plan*.

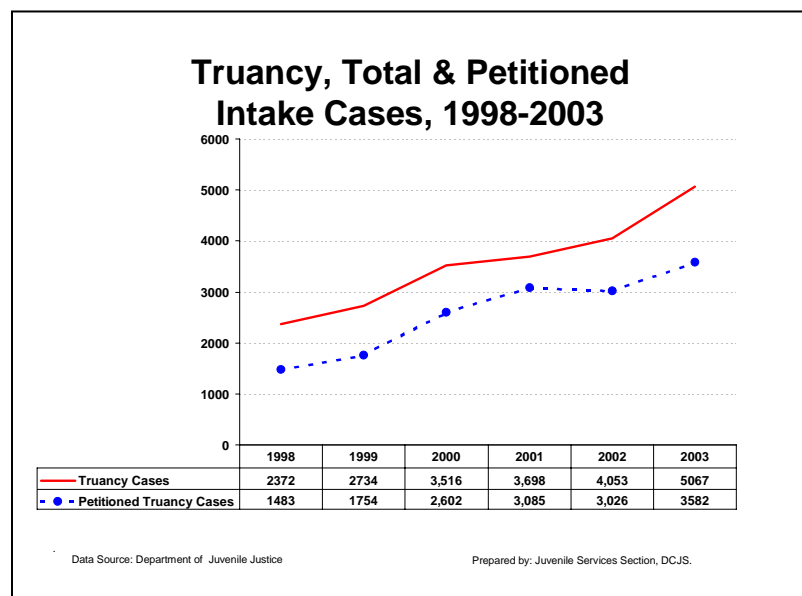
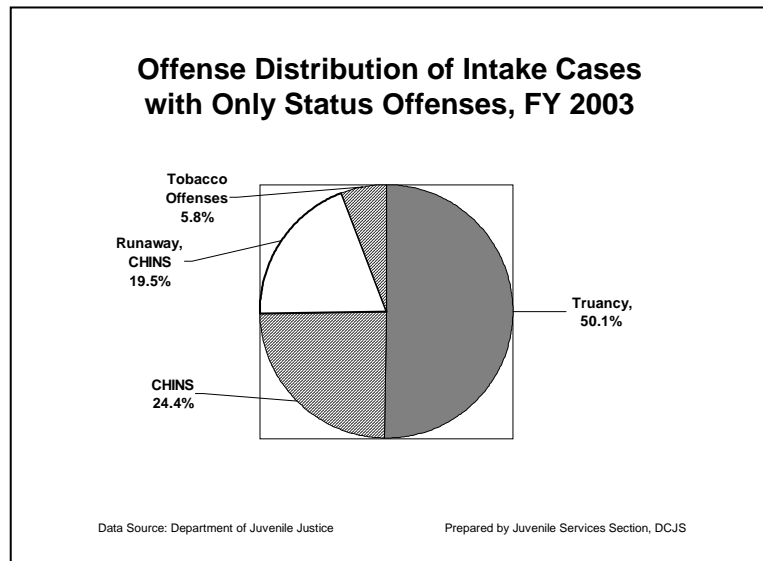
A somewhat higher percentage of females are brought to intake for technical offenses (31%) than for delinquent offenses (25%), but there is variability among the offenses. About 38% of contempt of court cases are female compared to 26% of probation/parole violations.

COURT SERVICE UNIT INTAKE – CASES WITH ONLY STATUS OFFENSES

This section concerns cases involving only status complaints. Status cases have offenses such as purchase or possession of tobacco by a minor, *Children in Need of Services* (CHINS), runaway complaints (also considered CHINS), and truancy (considered *Children in Need of Supervision*). Were the offender an adult, they would not be offenses; hence it is the age status of the offender that determines that it is an offense.

Neither the number nor the percentage of children petitioned to court for status offenses has changed much in the last year. The number of children brought to intake for status offenses and the number petitioned have both decreased by about 400 children.

However, the offense distribution of status offense cases has changed. In 2002, about 39% of children were brought for truancy. In 2003, over half were for truancy. The percentage due to tobacco offenses has decreased from 12% in 2002 to 5.8% in 2003.



The number of children brought to intake and petitioned to court for truancy has increased dramatically since the change in the legislation in 1999³ and continues to increase, as the graph shows. The number of cases has more than doubled in six years. About one-quarter of truants are aged 13 and under; 5% are aged 10 and under. The majority -- about 61% -- are classified as white. Truancy is a priority area for funding of Title II grants in 2004.

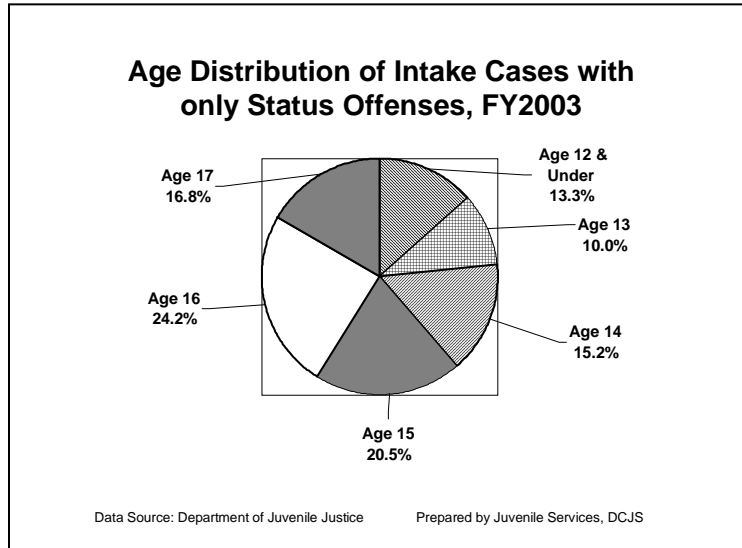
In the Three-Year Plan, a disparity was reported between the percentage of total status offenses petitioned to court and the percentage of truants petitioned. Overall, about 60% of cases with only status offenses were petitioned to court in 2002 but 75% of truancy cases were petitioned. That disparity does not exist in the 2003 data.

³ In 1999, the Code of Virginia was amended to require that each school go through a prescribed series of steps to handle truants. The final step is a petition to court. One consequence of the law was to eliminate the practice of punishing truants by expulsion. It also requires schools to attend to truants before their behavior becomes chronic.

Demographics on Cases - Status Offenses Only

Age

As might be expected, a larger portion of cases brought to intake for status offenses are younger than for delinquent or technical offenses. Cases of children aged 13 and under represent almost one-quarter of cases and cases aged 14 represent another 15%.



Racial and Gender Composition: Intake Cases with Only Status Complaints

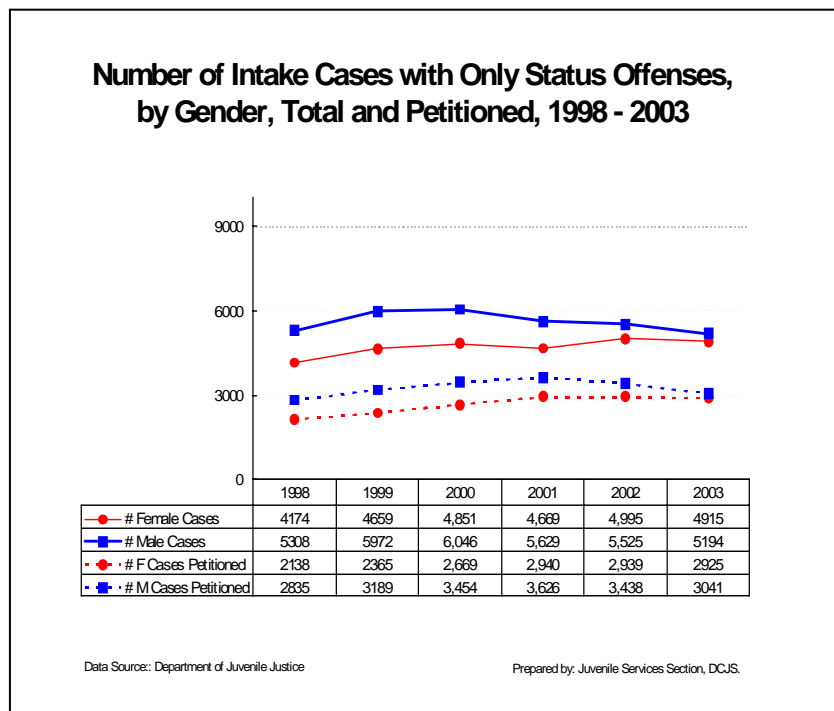
Racial Composition

For information about the racial composition of status offense only cases, refer to the *System-Wide Issues* section above and the *Disproportionate Minority Contact Plan*.

Gender Composition - Status Offense Only Cases

The gender composition of intake cases involving only status complaints is shown in the chart.

As discussed in the Three-Year Plan, there has been a shift in the gender distribution such that the number of females has increased at a faster rate than the number of males. With status intake cases, the number of females has increased by about 18% over six years whereas the number of males has actually decreased by



about 2%.

In 2003, the baseline for status offense only cases was about 49% female and 51% male. Both males and females are about as likely as their baseline intake percentage to be petitioned.

SUMMARY, INTAKE CASES

Delinquent cases, which represent about 2/3 of juvenile intake cases, show little change in number, number petitioned to court, or offense distribution over the past year. Assault, larceny, narcotics, and vandalism were four of the five largest offense categories (excluding technical offenses) in 1998 and are the largest offense categories in 2003.

Technical offenses, which are reported separately this year, represent another 1/6 of intake cases. All but 2% of technical offense cases are for contempt of court or probation/parole violations.

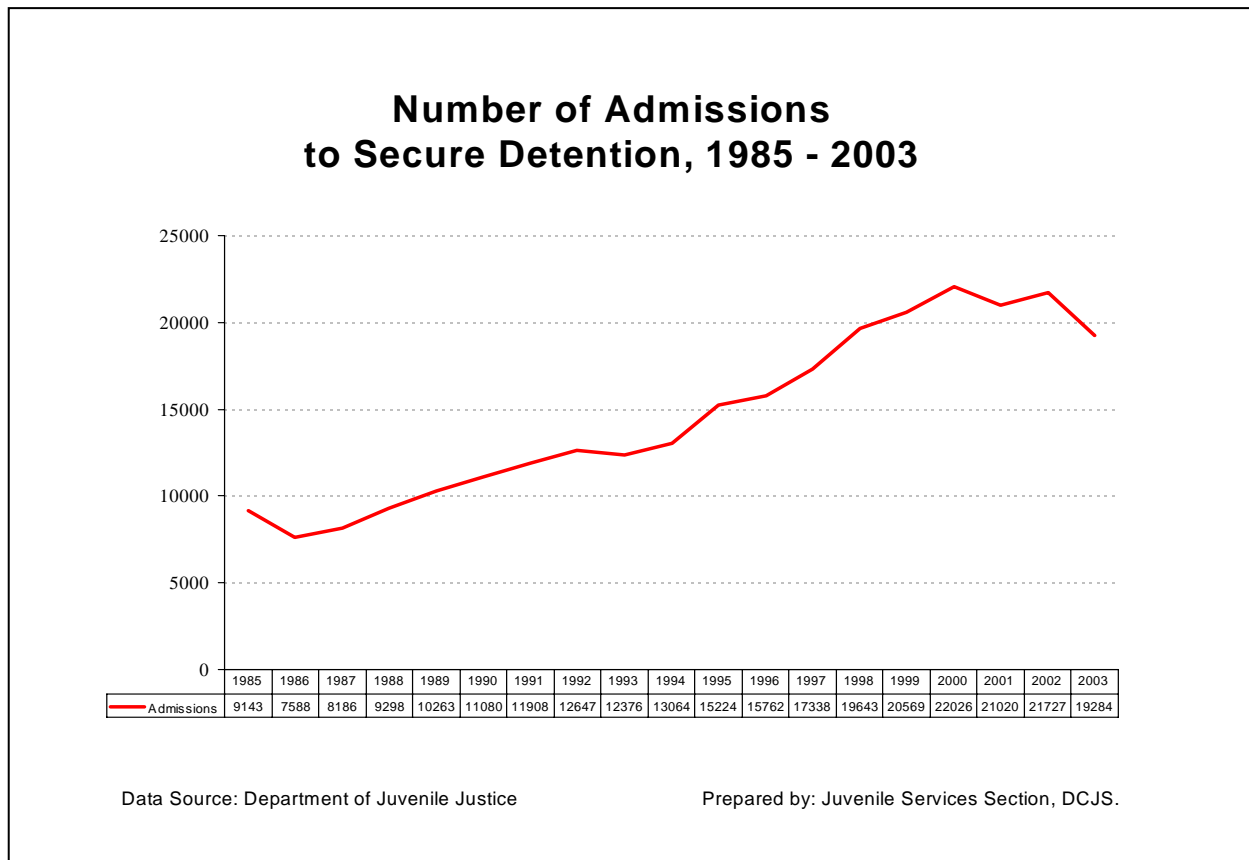
Status offense cases represent 1/6 of juvenile intake cases. The percentage of status offense intake cases due to truancy has increased to half over the past year. Of the 5,100 truants brought to intake, almost 1,900 are aged 14 and under; of those, 300 are aged 10 and under. Truants are mainly white (61%) but are about equally male and female.

V: SECURE DETENTION

Secure detention facilities provide secure confinement for juveniles who are awaiting adjudication (pre-dispositional), and local confinement services for adjudicated youth (post-dispositional).

In 2003, 75% of admissions to secure detention facilities were predispositional⁴. For post-dispositional youth, sentences may be for up to six months. Juveniles are also placed in secure detention by a judge for a specified number of days for technical offenses such as probation/parole violations, failure to appear at trial, or contempt of court.

Information on average daily population, admissions, and population demographics for juvenile secure detention facilities is presented in this section. A child may have more than one detention admission during a detention placement by being placed in a facility and transferred in and out of that facility or to another facility. The 19,284 admissions in 2003 represent 11,590 juveniles. About two-thirds were admitted only one time and the others were admitted multiple times.

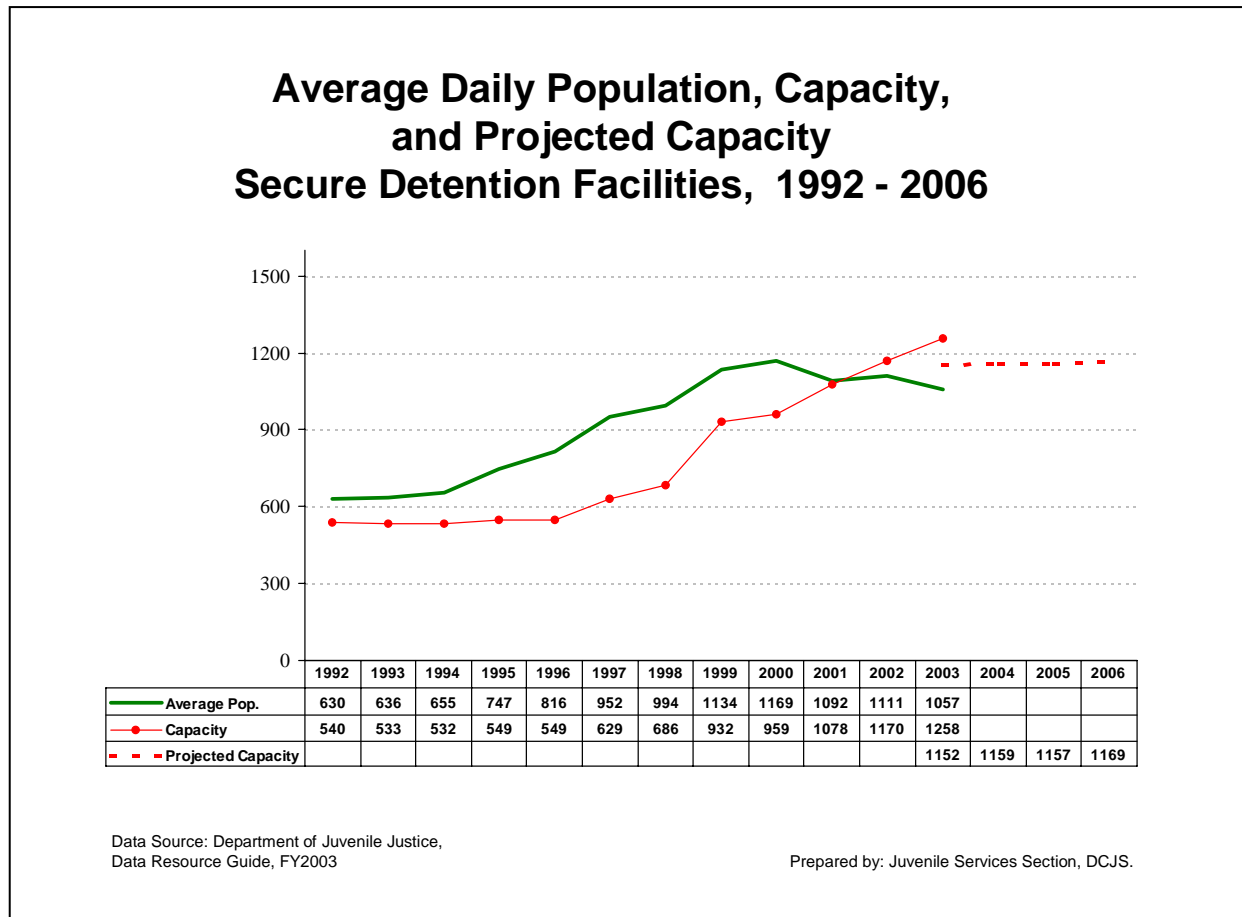


⁴ Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (2004). *Data Resource Guide, Fiscal Year 2003*, Richmond, VA.

The number of juveniles admitted to secure detention for the 19-year period 1985 to 2003 is shown in the graph. Although the number of admissions has decreased slightly over the past three years, overall the number has more than doubled during the period shown from 9,143 in 1985 to 19,284 in 2003. Reducing the number of children admitted to secure detention facilities is a funding priority for Title II in 2004.

AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION, CAPACITY, AND PROJECTED CAPACITY

The chart below shows the average daily population, capacity, and projected capacity of secure detention facilities.



In the 12-year period, 1992-2003, the average daily population of secure detention facilities has increased by 74%; however, in the most recent four years, the average daily population has decreased.

Capacity has more than doubled in the 12-year period. The long-term trend of average population consistently exceeding capacity has reversed with more available beds than admissions in 2002 and 2003.

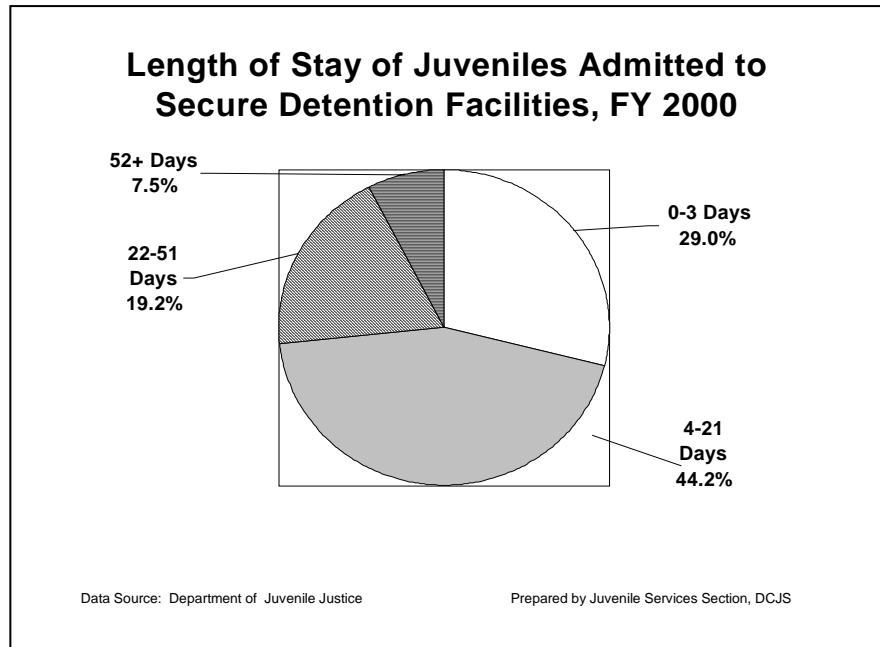
LENGTH OF STAY

Most juveniles are detained in secure detention facilities for less than 21 days. The average length of stay is depicted below. The data were taken from a 2001 report by the Department of Juvenile Justice⁵. Intervals shown are consistent with statutes in the *Code of Virginia*.

The initial decision to place a juvenile in secure detention is made at Intake. Once detained, juveniles must appear before a judge on the next day on which the court sits, not to exceed 72 hours (3 days). At an initial hearing, the judge determines whether the child should be released or should continue to be detained. An adjudicatory or transfer hearing must be held within 21 days from the initial date of detention.

A juvenile must be released from secure detention if the adjudicatory or transfer hearing does not occur within 21 days. Once adjudicated, the length of stay is typically determined by the judge.

Almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of admissions are for 21 days or less. As the pie chart shows, 29% of admissions are for three days or less; another 44% are for 4 days to 21 days, 19% are for 21 days to 51 days (about 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ weeks) and the remaining 8% are for more than 52 days. Ensuring the adequate legal representation of juveniles prior to detention is a priority for Virginia.

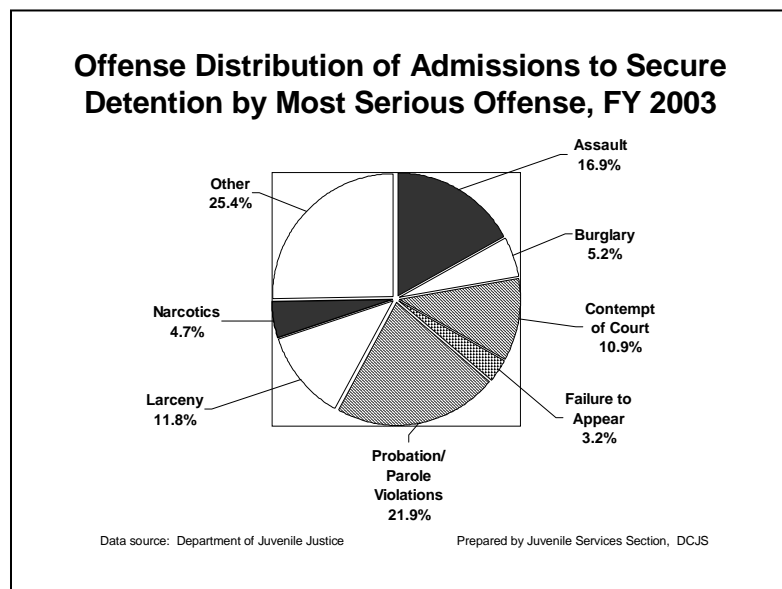


⁵ Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (2001). *Juvenile detention: What's going on in Virginia: Utilization of pre-dispositional juvenile detention in Virginia, Fiscal year 2000*. Richmond, VA

ADMISSIONS FOR SPECIFIC OFFENSES: SECURE DETENTION

Relatively few offenses account for the majority of the 19,284 admissions in 2003. The offenses and percentages have changed little since the submission of the Three-Year

Plan. Seven offenses, which account for 3/4 of admissions are depicted in the pie chart. The largest category was technical violations, shown by the cross-hatched pattern in the chart. Together, the three technical violations -- probation/parole violations, contempt of court, and failure to appear -- account for 36% of admissions. These are admissions for which the child has not committed a new offense. This is not a new trend. Technical offenses were the largest category of admissions in the two previous

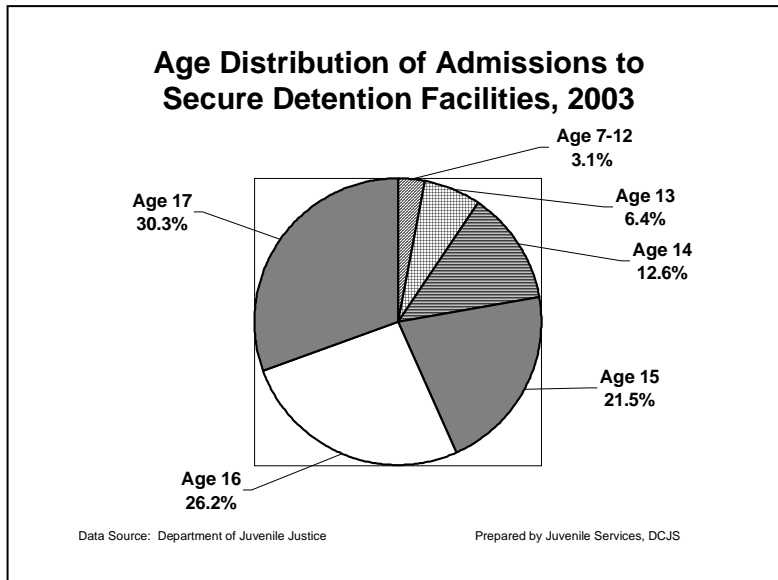


Three-Year Plans.

The other major categories are assault, 17%, larceny, 12%, narcotics, 5%, and burglary, 5%. Together, they account for another 39% of the pie chart.

AGE DISTRIBUTION: SECURE DETENTION FACILITIES

The following pie chart shows the age distribution of children aged 7 to 17 admitted to secure detention facilities in Virginia in 2003⁶. The percentages displayed have changed little since the submission of the Three-Year Plan.



The top right quadrant represents children who are aged 14 and under. Twenty-two percent of admissions to secure detention facilities were of children aged 14 and under in 2003. This represents 33 admissions of children aged 7-10, 138 aged 11, 425 aged 12, 1,224 aged 13, and 2,412 aged 14.

This is an ongoing pattern -- children aged 14 and under have represented between 22 and 25% of admissions to secure detention facilities since 1998.

RACIAL AND GENDER COMPOSITION: SECURE DETENTION FACILITIES

Racial Composition

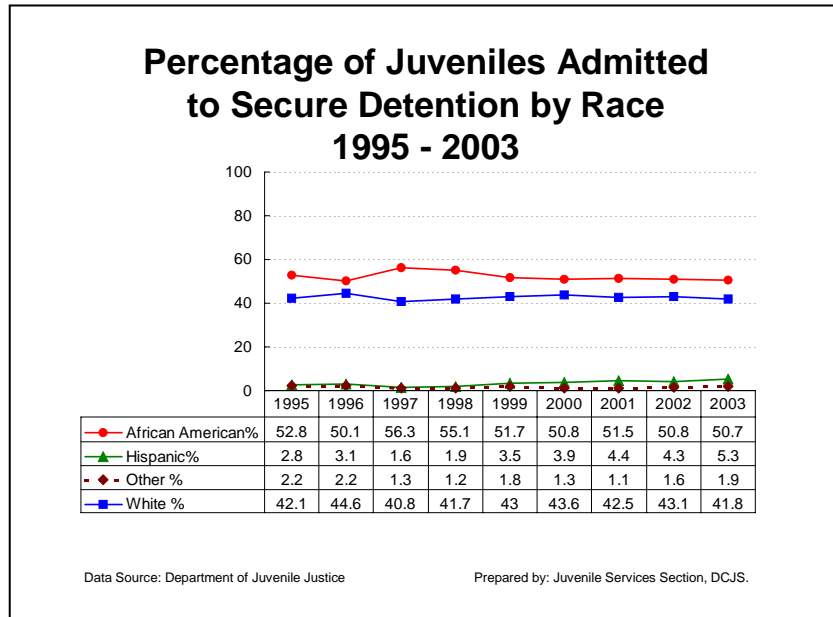
Both African American and white children show a decrease in the number of admissions from 2002. In contrast, the number of admissions of Hispanic children has increased by about 7.5% from 2002. As the number of admissions varies from year to year, it is too early to tell whether these are trends. Percentile information is depicted in the graph below.

⁶ Data for admissions aged 18 and of unknown age were omitted. They total 102 admissions.

As at intake, African American children are over-represented in secure detention facilities in Virginia. They represent 24% of the at-risk population but 51% of admissions. The situation is unchanged over the past eight years.

Children classified as white are 65% of the at-risk population and 42% of admissions.

Together, admissions of African American and white children account for about 92% of admissions.



The percentage of admissions of Hispanic juveniles has increased from 2.8% in 1995 to 5.3% in 2003. Whether this represents a true increase or inaccurate classification in the earlier years cannot be determined from the data.

For further information and data about the racial distribution of juveniles in secure detention facilities, see the *System-Wide Issues* section above and the *Disproportionate Minority Contact Plan*.

Gender Distribution

In 2003, there was a decrease in the number of male and female admissions. The percentages of male and female admissions are unchanged since 2002.

SUMMARY: SECURE DETENTION FACILITIES

We have nearly 20 years of admissions data for detention facilities. Although the number of admissions has decreased slightly over the past three years, overall the number has more than doubled over the past 19 years. In 2002, 75% of admissions were predispositional.

In Virginia, a juvenile must be released from secure detention if the adjudicatory or transfer hearing does not occur within 21 days. In FY 2000, almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of admissions were for 21 days or less. Ensuring the adequate legal representation of children before they are detained is a priority for Virginia

The largest offense category for which children are detained is technical violations: they account for 36% of admissions. This is not a new trend. Technical offenses were the largest offense category in the last two Three-Year Plans.

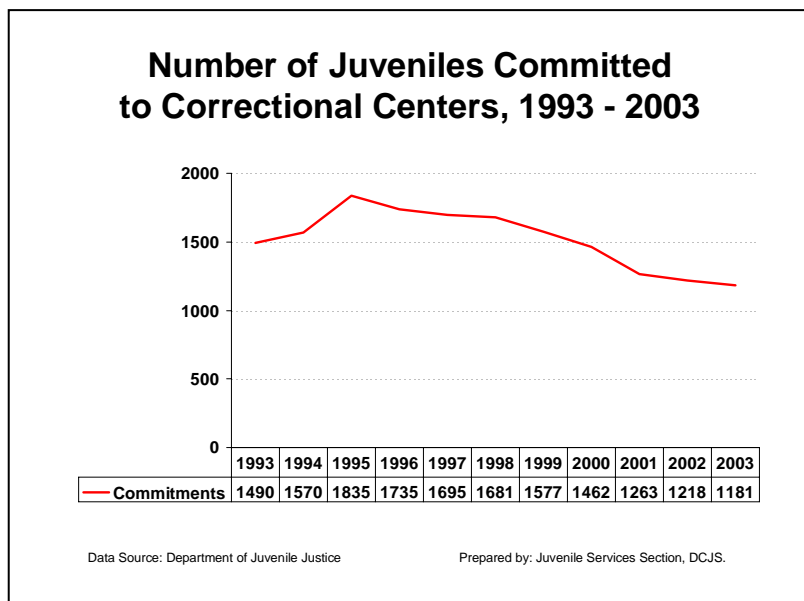
Twenty-two percent of children admitted to secure detention facilities in 2003 were aged 14 and under. This is an ongoing pattern -- children aged 14 and under have represented more than 20% of admissions to secure detention facilities since 1998.

As at intake, African American children are over-represented in secure detention facilities in Virginia. They represent 24% of the at-risk population but 51% of admissions. The situation is unchanged over the past eight years.

VI: JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL CENTERS

If a juvenile is adjudicated as a delinquent and is 11 years of age or older, one of the possible sanctions is custodial commitment to State care. State care includes an initial assessment at the Reception and Diagnostic Center. From the Reception and Diagnostic Center, the juvenile may go to a privately operated residential facility, or a Juvenile Correctional Center.

This section contains data on commitments, average daily population, admitting offenses, and population demographics for juveniles committed to correctional centers.



There are seven juvenile correctional centers in Virginia including the Reception and Diagnostic Center.

The number of juveniles committed to juvenile correctional centers is shown in the chart.

The total number of commitments has decreased by 21% over the 11-year period from 1490 in

1993 to 1181 in 2003.

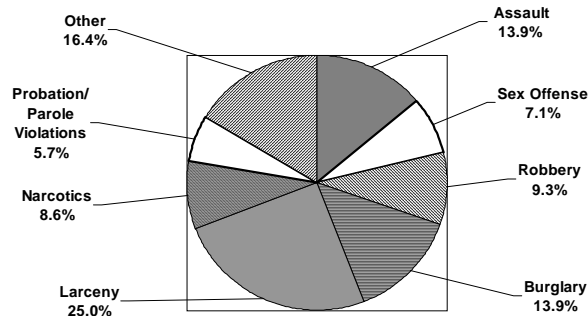
The cost of detaining a juvenile in a correctional facility is high. In 2003, the annual per capita cost was \$71,618 comprised of \$57,599 JCC annual cost and \$14,019 educational costs⁷. Recidivism rates are also high. The rearrest rate for juveniles released from correctional centers is 75% after three years⁸.

7, 8 Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (2003). *Data Resource Guide, Fiscal Year 2003*, Richmond, VA

OFFENSES

Relatively few offenses contribute a large portion of committing offenses. These are depicted in the chart and are essentially unchanged since the submission of the Three-Year Plan.

Offense Distribution of Commitments to Juvenile Correctional Facilities by Most Serious Offense, FY 2003



Data Source: Department of Juvenile Justice

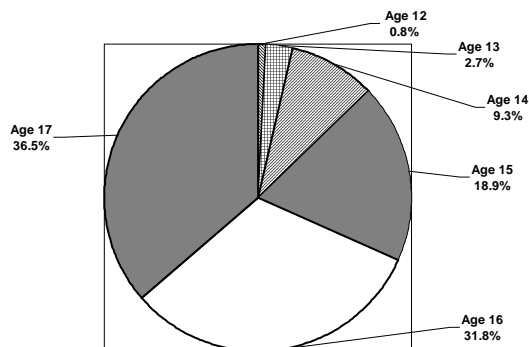
Prepared by Juvenile Services, DCJS

AGE

DISTRIBUTION

The pie chart below present the age distribution of children under age 18 committed to juvenile correctional centers in 2003.

Age Distribution of Commitments to Juvenile Correctional Facilities, FY2003



Data Source: Department of Juvenile Justice

Prepared by Juvenile Services, DCJS

The percentages are unchanged since 2002.

RACIAL AND GENDER COMPOSITION: CORRECTIONAL CENTERS

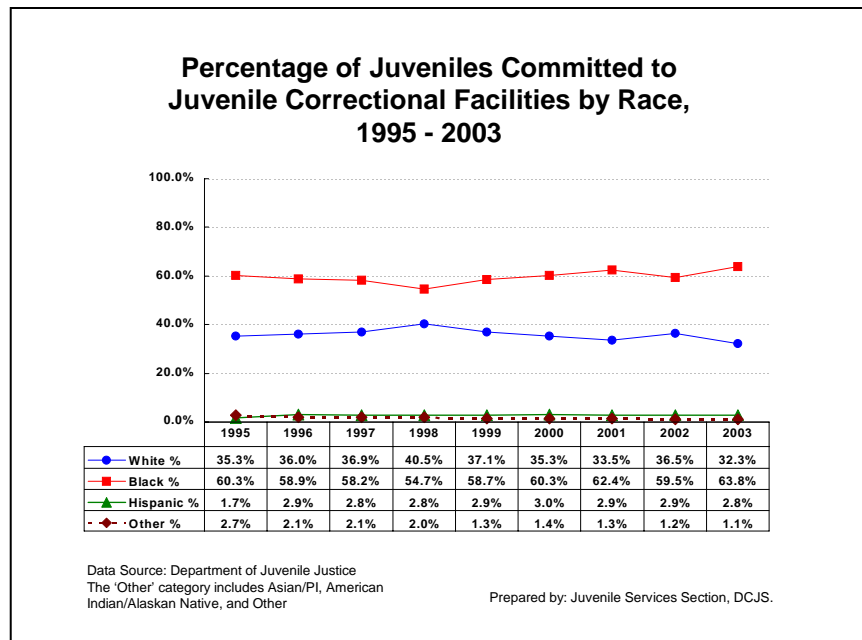
Racial Composition

As reported in the Three-Year Plan, the numbers of African American and white children have decreased at about the same rate over the ten years, 1993 to

2002. The decrease from 2002 to 2003 is not equivalent for African American and white children. It is too early to determine if this is an anomaly in the data or a pattern.

The graph provides an overview of the relative proportions of individuals of the three main racial categories and other minorities.

As the graph shows, African American children represent 64% of commitments to juvenile correctional centers, an increase from 60% in 2002. The percentage of white children has decreased from 37% to 32% since 2002.



For further information and data about the racial distribution of juveniles in correctional centers, see the *System-Wide Issues* section above and the *Disproportionate Minority Contact Plan*.

GENDER DISTRIBUTION

The gender distribution of admissions to correctional centers varies somewhat from year to year but has changed little over the ten-year period 1993 to 2002. Close to 90% are males; about 9 -12% are females.

SUMMARY, JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL CENTERS

The number of commitments to juvenile correctional facilities has continued to decrease since the submission of the Three-Year Plan.

Commitments to juvenile correctional facilities are typically of African American males. About 30% of the most serious offenses are offenses against persons such as assault, sexual assault, and robbery. Burglary and larceny represent another 40%. Narcotics and probation/parole violations are the other largest categories.

As would be expected, the age distribution of juveniles committed to correctional facilities reflects older children than those brought to intake or confined in secure detention facilities.

As at intake and in secure detention facilities, African American children are over-represented relative to their proportion in the juvenile population.